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AUG 16 2000

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the proposed amendments to the specification and claims and the remarks presented herein. Entry of the amendment is requested under the provisions of Rule 116 as it puts the application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal by reducing the issues on appeal.

As a result of a telephone conversation with the Examiner in charge of the application on August 10, 2000, the present amendment is being submitted to replace the amendment of July 31, 2000. The present amendment amends minor errors in the specification without raising new issues as requested by the Examiner. The specification has been reviewed in its entirety and it is believed that all of necessary minor changes have been made.

The claims in the application are claims 2 to 5 and 8 to 11, 14 and 15, all other claims having been cancelled.

It is believed that the formal issues raised in the final rejection of April 13, 2000 have been dealt with for the reasons set forth in the response of July 31, 2000. With respect to the prior art rejection, it is believed that the arguments set forth in

the July 31, 2000 amendment obviates these grounds of rejection.

The present amendment replaces the amendment to the claims of July 31, 2000 to take into consideration some objections raised by the Examiner. As the Examiner requested, the term "material" has been changed to "composition" in all of the claims and claim 12 has now been rewritten as claim 14 to set forth that the composition is an aqueous solution at 1 to 30°C and that it gelatinizes at about 37°C. In addition, the method of use claim has been replaced by new claim 15 to delete reference to bone defects. Therefore, it is believed that the present amendment modifies the claims to obviate the Examiner's objections thereto as expressed during the telephone interview.

Therefore, it is believed that the present claims clearly point out Applicants' patentable contribution and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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